



# Newsletter

July 2025

## Philadelphia Dog Training Club

### A Word from the President

Greetings everyone-hope you are having a happy and productive summer. Even though my dogs could care less, I am tired of getting wet outside every day!

I want to start by thanking everyone involved for producing a wonderful spring obedience trial in May. Special thanks to Liz Alakszay, Carol Houton and Sue Anderson for their pivotal roles. As we look towards our fall rally trial in November, I want to remind people we will again need volunteers for the day of the trial. You will also get my trophy ask letter soon by email as well.

I also want to remind everyone that as a training member you are required to

volunteer in some capacity each year. If you haven't already, please consider volunteering for the trial, for taking pictures for our social media pages or to help with a shed clean-out and perhaps mat cleaning sometime in the near future. By volunteering it is a chance to get to know your fellow members when you don't have to worry about dogs at your feet or chatting over the instructor!

It has been a quiet time for the Board which is wonderful. Classes continue to be full and participation of members is good too. If there is anything that you wish myself or the Board to consider please let me know. Until next time enjoy your four-footed friends.

-Brenda

## Sad Passings

This is the story of my sheltie, Murphy, AKA Jade Mist's Bright Light, UD, BN, RN, PCDX, TKA, CGCA. My beloved sheltie Murphy passed away on June 16, 2025, at 12-and-half years old.

He was such a great dog. I am beyond sad. I am tearing up even as I write this. Murphy was seemingly healthy but started drinking an excessive amount of water. Bloodwork showed that his liver values were very elevated. (They were fine in December 2024.)

An ultrasound revealed a mass on his liver. A CAT scan followed. Because he was otherwise healthy, I decided in conjunction with my vet and the surgeon to proceed with surgery. Unfortunately, Murphy made it through the surgery, but his body failed, and he never regained consciousness. Murphy was very special to me. He was a piece of my heart. We were a team in life and performance activities.

I got Murphy from a well-known breeder, Jade Mist. His sire was a Grand Champion, and his dam was from Belmark. It was love at first sight when I went to choose a puppy. He was the puppy that ran up to me and covered me with "kisses." Spunky, friendly, and adorable, how could I resist?

We did Agility for fun. Because of his solid temperament, even distracting atmospheres



didn't faze him. He loved working.

When he was two years old, he began showing in Novice. It was also his first outside trial and was a hot June day. Murphy amazed me—as he often did. He got High-in-Trial. He was happy because I was.

During his obedience and rally careers, Murphy often placed first. He even tied for eighth-ranked sheltie in Open in four shows and was invited to the AKC Classic. We didn't go, but just working with him was my real reward.

Murphy used to really enjoy showing. We were a team and loved working together. For example, he placed six out of six times in three days many years ago at the Lackawanna K.C. and Williamsport DTC shows, showing three times in Open and three in Preferred Open—and he was one point from High-in-Trial in the Preferred Classes. We would play and he would greet people during his down-time.

We loved being together—whether we were practicing obedience, tricks, rally, or just hanging out. He was my little shadow who was a pleasure to be around.

Murphy had two Preferred Utility legs before the COVID pandemic hit. I showed him only a few times thereafter, and he never got the third leg. This past year, he didn't enjoy showing anymore but still loved practicing. So I retired him from formal obedience.

Even though I have other dogs, the loss of Murphy is immense. We had a special bond.

Rest in peace at the Rainbow Bridge, my little boy. I hope that we meet again.

-Debbie DeSantis

## Sad Passings

Frank Nelson's

Notorious Jesse James (JJ) TDI, CDX 2/26/16 – 4/1/25  
Sorely missed as a true representative of the breed.



Will Happ and Maria Gonzalez

Emma Yanowsky

Melissa Pine

Alice Phillips

Stephen Rae

Teresa Kleoinhaus

Jennifer McCarthy

### **Jenn Weinik:**

Cookie and I tied with two teams for seventh place at this year's National Obedience Championship. This picture is after our heeling runoff which she won earning 7th place. My emotions of the two grueling days were released. Words cannot express how proud I am of Cookie. Despite her nature, she leans into the work I have chosen for her. Thank you Cookie, you are an amazing girl.



## **Leslie McCracken:**

Guido earned his UD this spring.  
He's now CH EAUCHIEN's Fedilini UD



## **Sue Anderson:**

Here's Cody!

He is now GCH CH Belmark Dauntless, CGCA

He is now learning agility at Y2K9s

(when he's not in the show ring looking dapper)



### Carley Bates:

Joe and I had a great time at our National Specialty in May at Purina Farms in Missouri. We got to see old friends and made some new ones. He finished his CDX with a third place. This helped him earn our National Club's Versatility Certificate. For this, points are given depending on the show venue, ie: conformation, obedience, etc. A total of 14 points are required and at least 6 points must be in one venue. Joe had 19 points but not the 6 in one venue, his CDX did that. We had started some Utility exercises and now will also start classes.



# The Summer I Turned Into A Water Dog

People always assume we poodles love swimming. After all, we were bred as water retrievers. Well... not me. Ever since I was a tiny pup, visiting my friend Daisy's house, I've been traumatized. I was having a great day on her terrace when I saw this weird, shiny blue ground. Humans are kind of weird, so I didn't question it. Then my mom called me over. I sprinted right onto that shiny ground... and BAM! I disappeared into what I now know was a swimming pool. I splashed, scrambled, panicked, finally clawed my way out, completely soaked, shivering, and horrified. From that moment on, at beaches I would run from the waves. At lakes I would never step onto a boat. At pools I'd only sit by the sidelines. And in the rain, I would avoid puddles with my life.



This summer everything changed, thanks to my big brother Boris and his new fishing hobby at our lake house. It was this strange creature hanging by a rod he held. He called it a fish. It smelled kind of funny but it really fascinated me. I realized it came from the water, and soon I was running out there before Boris, sniffing the shoreline, even poking my nose in the water looking for a fish by myself.

Then mom took me kayaking. At first, I shook with

# The Summer I Turned Into A Water Dog

terror, but after a few paddle strokes, wind in my curls and water splashing everywhere, I thought: "Huh... this is actually so much fun!" I even fell in, and it turns out I can swim (thanks, poodle genes!).



The real highlight? Paddle-boarding with my brother Simeon. This is so much fun – I strut between his legs, lay down and look for fish in the water, or pretend to be the captain of this vessel. And I also discovered that jumping in the water from the paddle board and swimming back to the shore can be lots of fun.

So yes, this summer I transformed from a land-loving, water-avoiding diva into a lake-loving, paddle-boarding, fish-stalking *Water Dog*. And I don't even care if it ruins my fancy poodle haircut.

Hope you're enjoying your summer too. I'll be back at the lake soon to finally catch that annoying catfish hiding under our dock and playing hide-and-seek with me!

-Hippo, Iliana, and Simeon

Please think of others. If any of your dogs is coughing, please do not bring your dog to class. You should think about contacting your vet.

Most importantly, it is imperative that no one allows their dog to come close to other dogs in class. We are asking you to stay 6 feet apart. In an attempt to be proactive, PDTC will not be providing dog bowls for water. Please bring your own dog bowl (water is available in the locker room) and don't allow any other dog to drink from your dog's bowl.



# Philadelphia DTC's Social Media

PDTC is on your go to social media spot

For instance, if you are on Facebook like me, it is  
Philadelphia Dog Training Club / Bryn Mawr PA

If you just type in  
Philadelphia Dog Training Club  
Facebook will give you choices, and you can easily  
see which one to choose

Philadelphia Dog Training Club on Instagram is  
@philadelphiadogtraining1938  
1938 is when we started

If you have any pictures you would like to post,  
please send them to Laura Rhubart:

[LRhubart@comcast.net](mailto:LRhubart@comcast.net)  
or text pictures to 610-209-5180



# Upcoming Trials

"Are you looking for a handy reference on where you can go to find out about upcoming Dog trials and/or matches? Well, here are some links for those types of listings. This is just a start, and if you know of other sites, please share!

AKC Event Search & Results:

<https://webapps.akc.org/event-search/#/search>

Clantry Show Secretary:

<https://www.clantyre.net/home>

DogMatchShows.com:

<https://dogmatchshows.com/>

ShowEntries.Info:

<https://showentries.info/>

Up Front Dog Center:

<https://upfrontdogcenter.com/>

## Rally Trials

-November 1

Philadelphia DTC AKC Rally Trial (Double Trial) at  
DTC of Chester County in Exton PA

Judge Laura Rixham

-November 14

K9 Obedience Training Club of Essex County NJ  
AKC Rally (Double Trial) at

Top Dog Obedience School, Flanders, NJ

Judges Aimee and Ken Kincaid

Remember that as a training member you are required to volunteer for the club. Our rally trial, November 1st needs a few volunteers. Stewarding is an easy job and requires no previous experience. We will tell you what to do. It is also a good way to learn about how a trial is run, making you a better handler. I enjoy stewarding and encourage you to volunteer. [ellsworthdogs@gmail.com](mailto:ellsworthdogs@gmail.com)

-Darrell

Help make our newsletter a success. Share your news with the rest of the membership. The deadline for the next issue is October 10<sup>th</sup> 2025. I look forward to seeing a lot of things that will be going on during the rest of your summer.

Remember, you can send your news in any time to:  
[ellsworthdogs@gmail.com](mailto:ellsworthdogs@gmail.com)